

Tougher action call against cyber fraud

Response to growing scam calls, sham texts and suspect transfers

● **Government backs MP proposal to step up public awareness**

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

Scam calls, sham texts and suspect transfers drove renewed calls in Parliament yesterday for tougher action against cyber fraud, after the government backed MP Hassan Ebrahim's proposal to step up public awareness.

In reply to the government's response, Ebrahim said the threat now reached far beyond stray online trickery and posed a real risk to people's money and private data.

He said public awareness was the first line of defence and argued that many cases could have been avoided if people knew not to share bank details, open suspicious links or answer calls from unknown sources.

Reply

The lawmaker welcomed the government's backing for his proposal and said its reply set out work already being done through awareness campaigns, media programmes and joint work with the banking and telecommunications sectors.

Those efforts, he said, were



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appreciated, but the present need was for a wider and more steady push rather than short-lived campaigns.

Ebrahim said he had put the proposal forward after repeated complaints reached MPs from citizens and residents who said they had been targeted through scam text messages, phone calls, fake links and sham websites posing as state bodies or financial firms in order to steal personal and banking data and take money.

"What is worrying is that these fraudulent methods have become more advanced and better organised," he said.

Technology

Ebrahim added that fraudsters were using new technology



“What is worrying is that these fraudulent methods have become more advanced and better organised.”

— MP HASSAN EBRAHIM

and the speed of social media to reach as many victims as they could.

He said older people and those with less knowledge of online scam methods could face a greater risk than others.

The MP called for warning messages to be spread through every available outlet, including television, radio, local newspa-

pers, digital platforms and social media.

Awareness, he said, should become a continuing public programme rather than a seasonal or limited effort.

Campaigns

Ebrahim also called for campaigns aimed at groups with different patterns of technolo-

gy use, including older people, school and university students, and workers.

Each group used technology in its own way, he said, and the message should match that.

But awareness alone, he told the chamber, would not be enough. Stronger technical and procedural protection was also needed in banking work.

He said banks in Bahrain already had advanced systems, yet the fast change in scam methods meant those systems had to be updated on a continuing basis.

He called for stronger alert and notice systems before some financial transactions are carried out, above all large transfers or transfers to overseas accounts, so there is greater certainty that the account holder is the one making the move and not a victim of fraud.

Ebrahim also urged a study of added checks for sensitive banking transactions, so the customer is given a chance to review the payment before it goes through, chiefly in cases where an account may have faced an attempted breach or misuse.

Turning to the telecom sector, he said there could be no real push against cyber fraud without a strong role being played by telecommunications firms and the bodies overseeing them in cutting down scam text messages and suspicious calls reaching users.

MPs condemn Al-Aqsa closure

● **Affirming support for Palestinians**

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

MPs approved a statement condemning the continued closure of Al-Aqsa Mosque and restrictions imposed on worshippers, reaffirming Bahrain's support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The decision reflects Parliament's unified stance, highlighting the issue's political and social importance as developments in Al Quds continue to draw strong regional reactions.

MPs stressed that the situation holds deep religious and humanitarian significance, noting that restrictions on worship at Al-Aqsa resonate far beyond its physical location, touching the sentiments of millions.

The approval comes at a time of heightened regional tension, where events in Palestine remain closely followed by communities in Bahrain.

For many, Al-Aqsa is not only a religious site, but a symbol of identity, history and shared concern.

MP calls for emergency units across governorates

Mohammed Darwish
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Bahrain should move to build fully integrated emergency departments across its governorates as housing growth and fast-rising population put more strain on the health system, MP Jalal Kadhem said.

Addressing Parliament yesterday, he said the spread of new residential areas and the rise in demand for care now called for a wider health network that could give people quicker access to treatment near where they live.

Jalal Kadhem said the Ministry of Health's efforts were valued, but argued that the next stage required a clear shift in how health services were shared across the country. New housing cities, he said, had made it harder to rely mainly on central hospitals.

He said Salmaniya Medical Complex could no longer carry so much of the emergency and treatment load on its own, with the number of citizens and residents nearing 1.6 million.

The strain, he said, had grown heavier on medical staff and health services, especially with the rise of chronic illness needing ongoing and urgent care.

He drew attention to the Northern Governorate, saying that although it has the highest population density, it still lacks a fully integrated medical centre on a level with the main hospitals.

Current care there, he said, remained limited.

Protecting rights, reinforcing values

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

MPs approved an official statement marking the Arab Human Rights Day, reaffirming Bahrain's commitment to principles of dignity, justice and human rights.

The move reflects Parliament's engagement with regional and humanitarian issues, particularly as broader developments across the region continue to shape public and political discourse.

MPs stressed that the occasion provides an opportunity

to highlight the importance of protecting rights and reinforcing values that support social stability and cohesion.

They noted that such statements are part of a broader responsibility to uphold principles that contribute to balanced and inclusive societies.

The approval comes amid ongoing regional tensions, where discussions around rights, security and stability remain closely connected. In such periods, official positions carry both political and social weight, reflecting the direction of national priorities.

Man jailed for drunk driving causing death of girlfriend

Rehab Mohammad
TDT | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced a man in his twenties to two years in prison after convicting him of causing the death of his girlfriend while driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to the Public Prosecution, the defendant caused a fatal traffic accident due to his negligence while driving under the influence and exceeding the maximum speed limit, which resulted in the death of the victim and injuries to another passenger.

Kids excited about Eidiya celebration

Neethu V
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As Eid al-Fitr nears, families across Bahrain are preparing to celebrate, with children eagerly awaiting the cherished tradition of Eidiya.

Joining the celebration, banks are providing new banknotes to ensure families can partake in the festivities smoothly.

NBB is offering BD1 and BD5 notes at Seef Mall, Souq Waqif, Riffa Bu Kowarah, Muharraq Souq, and Marassi Galleria from March 17 until stocks last, Khaleeji Bank providing notes at ATMs in Hidd, Wadi Al Sail, and Sanad branches and BisB making Eidiya notes available at various ATMs and branches.

Joy

Beyond family celebrations, efforts to spread joy have extended to children in need.

The Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF), through its humanitarian volunteer initiatives team "Shaim Al-Khair,"



The Royal Humanitarian Foundation brings smiles to children

led by Shaikha Shaima bint Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, launched the initiative - "Our Eidiyah is different with Shaim Al-Khair".

Volunteers distributed Eid gifts to more than 200 children, including orphans, ensuring that the spirit of giving reaches those who need it most.

Traditions

As Eid approaches, the continuation of Eidiya traditions, supported by both families and

organizations like RHF, highlights the enduring values of kindness, generosity, and togetherness, bringing smiles and hope to children across Bahrain.

This beloved custom of gifting money or small presents in colourful envelopes brings excitement while teaching values of generosity and sharing.

In the days leading up to Eid, children plan visits to relatives, looking forward to collecting their festive treats.